

Treasure Test

Revealing the Heart in Our Chest

August 28, 2022

Today we're digging into the treasure test; cuz after the treasure comes the test!



So, **what've you done with what you've discovered?** Hide it? Hope not. After comparing His kingdom to treasure that a man *found*, and *re-buried*, in a *field*, (Mt 13:44) Jesus warns Peter, Andy, Jim, and John, *not* to be like the *guy* who *left* his talent *buried* rather than *invested*. Cuz **after you find it, and once you've secured it, you gotta invest it.** You see:



The one talent [man] came and said, "Lord ... [I] hid your talent in the ground." But his lord answered and said to him, "You wicked and lazy servant ... take the talent from him, and give it to him who **[doubled his five, and]** has *ten* talents. For to everyone who has, **[“been faithful over a few things”]** more will be given ... but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. – Matthew 25:24-29 NKJ



Cuz **we gotta use it or lose it.** It's not a *threat*, just the reality of how our *time*, *talents*, and *treasures* hold up down here. In 1957, the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, buried a brand new Plymouth Belvedere in a concrete vault. Fifty years later, in 2007, 9,000 people packed a Convention Center for Miss Belvedere's unveiling. Quote: "Pulling the rotting plastic wrap away revealed the *true* state of the car, a heartbreaking rusted pile of metal. ... The interior had completely rotted away, and the engine rusted solid with no hope of ever starting again." Cuz, **buried talents are taken away.** Again, *not* a *threat*. Just the *truth*. Turns out, **this world is merciless to buried Belvederes.** It reminds me of Jesus' classic *warning* to ...



Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where *moth* and *rust* do not *destroy*, and where *thieves* do not break in and *steal*. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:20-21 NIV



We focus on the man who *found* the treasure in a field – but **think about the one who hid it and left it and lost the chance to spend it and enjoy it!**



[The absurdly rich King Solomon wrote] There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches being *hoarded* by their *owner* to his *hurt*. – Ecclesiastes 5:13 NAS

We catch a glimpse of this in the climax of Schindler's List when the once greedy businessman realizes, the only *meaningful* value in saving *money* is *using* it to *save* and *help* others. What holds true *here*, regarding *monetary wealth*, is all the more *profound* **when applied to the true treasure of our Father's kingdom**, which is *first* and *foremost* **the light and life and love of Christ.**

Happy is the man who finds *wisdom*, and the man who gains *understanding*; for her proceeds are *better* than the profits of *silver*, – Proverbs 3:13-14 NKJ



[So] Be *encouraged*, being knit together in *love*, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding ... both of the *Father* and of *Christ*, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. – Colossians 2:2-3 NKJ



When the shepherds quoted the angel about Jesus' birth:

All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But *Mary* treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. – Luke 2:18-19 NIV

"I thought we stored up our treasures in *heaven*." We do. "But *she* stored 'em up in her *heart*." True. Cuz heaven is *defined* by God's *presence*; and "the kingdom of God is *within*". (Lk 17:21) We seem to think Jesus said to store up our treasure in heaven, "where *moth* and *rust* ~~do not~~ [can't] destroy" and "where *thieves* ~~do not~~ [can't] break in and steal" ... but He *didn't*. We store it where the moth and rust *don't* destroy: and that *thief* won't *steal*. Know why? Cuz He says:

"Behold, I come like a *thief*! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his *clothes* with him, so that he may not go *naked* and be shamefully *exposed*." – Revelation 16:15 NIV

[And] I am like a *moth* to [those who pursue worthless things], and like *decay* – Hosea 5:12 CEB

[So] Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. [How?] – Romans 13:14 NIV

Clothe yourselves with *compassion*, *kindness*, *humility*, *gentleness* and *patience*. ... *Forgive* as the Lord forgave you. And *over all* ... put on *love* ... Let the *peace* of Christ *rule* in your hearts [where *eternal riches remain*] ... And be *thankful*. – Colossians 3:12-15 NIV



Don't let your walk of faith fall somewhere between *smoking less* and *losing ten pounds*. Push past the *excuses* and store up your *treasure* in the *only place* that's a truly *safe safe*. Cuz in *case* you haven't *noticed* how it works down here:

Man *decays* like a *rotten* thing, like a *garment* that is *moth-eaten*. – Job 13:28 NKJ

[Therefore] Your *Word* I have *treasured* in my *heart* ... – Psalm 119:11 NAS

[Because] You rebuke and discipline men for their sin; [and] You consume their wealth like a *moth*— [and let's face it] each man is but a *breath*. – Psalm 39:11 NIV

God's the *moth* and our body's the *cloth*, corroding under the *curse* of the *sin* that *holds us captive* by whatever *worldly* "wealth" we hold most dear ... *until*, that is, we're truly set free.

Because you say, 'I am rich ... and have need of *nothing*'—and do not *know* that you are ... *poor*, *blind*, and *naked*— I *counsel* you to buy from Me gold refined [rather than destroyed] in the fire, that you may be *rich*; and *white garments*, that you may be *clothed*, that the shame of your *nakedness* may not be revealed; [for "fine linen, clean and bright ... is the righteous acts of the saints." (Rev 19:8)] ... As many as I love, I *rebuke* ... [Therefore] *repent*. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. – Revelation 3:17-20 NKJ



Because **reconciliation requires reciprocation**; otherwise it's just half the equation. Picture adjoining hotel rooms. Adam's *selfish* decision in the Garden of Eden dead-bolted both doors. But Jesus' *selfless* decision in the Garden of *Gethsemane* unlocked and re-opened God's door.



Now He stands and knocks on *ours*. (Rev 3:20) "But we gotta **buy it?**" Yep! **Salvation is the free gift that costs every piece of garbage on our puffed up pile.** (Phil 3:8) But leaving it *buried* is left up to each *investor*. Because:

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. [Which is your heart, if and when His treasure's come in. Pop quiz: Top two items in our Father's will? Loving *Him* with *all our heart*, and loving others with the lesser, but nevertheless, un failing devotion we show *ourselves*] Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them *plainly*, I never *knew* you. *Away* from Me, you evildoers!" – Matthew 7:21-23 NIV

And those were the ones *teaching* and *healing*! Which goes to show: **Jesus can work with honest ignorance; but He can't stand presumptuous arrogance.** Not in *His* treasure house.

"You will stand outside *knocking* and *pleading*, 'Sir, *open* the door for us.' But [the owner of the house] will answer, 'I don't *know* you or *where* you come from.'" – Luke 13:25 NIV

If you're not *coming* to Jesus in order to *treasure up* His *Word*, in order to be *transformed* into His *image*, first and foremost above *all*, then He doesn't know *where* you're coming from!

[Cuz] We *know* that we *all* possess *knowledge*. [Know how?] *Knowledge puffs up*, but [we *also* know that we *don't* all possess *love*. Know how?] *love builds up*. [So] The [puffed up] man who *thinks* he *knows* something does *not* yet *know* as he *ought* to *know*. [Cuz he *ought'a* know above *all* that he *ought'a* be a *love-'em-all* rather than a *know-it-all*] But the man who *loves* God is *known* by God. – 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 NIV

Cuz wow, can He instantly identify a builder-upper from a puffer-upper! Because:

Love suffers *long* and is *kind*; love does not *envy*; love does not *parade itself*, is not puffed up; does not behave *rudely*, does not *seek* its *own*, – 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 NKJ

That list is *longer*, but that should get you *started*. So, if "[he] who thinks he knows ... [doesn't know] as he ought to know", **how can we know when we know enough?** We *can't*; cuz, we *can't*. So if you *assume* you *do*, *presume* you *don't*. However, **we can know that we love enough.** Know how? **Love builds up others, and the other puffs up our selves.**

And one of the *best* examples in the Bible, is in the story of *Joseph*; just *after* he's *risen* to the *highest rank* under Pharaoh, having saved *all Egypt* from a famine; and just *before* he *reveals* himself to his brothers, who *betrayed* him for twenty pieces of *silver*, and have *unknowingly* come to him, to *plead* with him, to *sell* them his *grain*. And what follows is a *sterling* example of what happens when we *buy* what we *need* from *Jesus*, and *share* what we've *stored* ... in our *heart*.



Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack, [cuz you can't out-give God!] and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them, they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left. [Lesson: once the Lord has *provided*, we need to get our *donkeys in gear* and get *going!* Those are 4,000-year-old Egyptian donkeys from *Joseph's day!* *Jealous Miss Belvedere?* And *this* is a *steward* named *Senbi*, from *Joseph's day*, like the one the brothers tried to return their silver to] ... "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God ... has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." – Genesis 42:25-26; 43:23 NIV

He did? *How?* **Someone had to pay.** One guess *who*. The *one* man in *all* Egypt who shouldn't have to pay for *any* grain that *he alone prophesied, planned, and provided*, who'd been *sold out* by those *very* men, *willingly* paid the price *himself*. Cuz **you can't out-give God!** Cuz we get *infinitely* more than we *bargain* for! Cuz **everything we gain AND give is always and only for our eternal best.**

We can't *earn* our *salvation* but we gotta *surrender* all we got to our *Savior*. Cuz **after we get the treasure, we get the test; cuz the test is whether or not we'll share the treasure.** First, we gotta see *truth* as *treasure*. Then we gotta *seek* it, *find* it, and *secure* it in our *heart*. And *then* **we gotta share the wealth.** But it's gotta come *from* your *heart!* In fact, don't even *bother* ...

... *unless* you *forgive* your brother from your heart." – Matthew 18:35 NIV

[So] Wash the *evil* from your heart and be *saved*. – Jeremiah 4:14 NIV

But *thanks* be to *God* that ... *you* have *come* to obey from your heart – Romans 6:17 NIV

... doing the *will* of *God* from your heart. – Ephesians 6:6 NIV

[So] *Sing* and make *music* from your heart to the Lord, – Ephesians 5:19 NIV

[And] Banish anxiety from your heart – Ecclesiastes 11:10 NIV

Only be *careful*, and *watch* yourselves *closely* so that you do not *forget* the things your *eyes* have *seen* or let them *slip* from your heart – Deuteronomy 4:9 NIV

We naturally share what we love. Movies. Restaurants. Beaches. Hotels. Cars. Recipes. **You name it, we share it!** *If* we *love* it. Because **we won't share what we don't love;** and **we can't love what we don't have in our heart.** And **we can't have what we won't get to know.**

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. – Matthew 12:34 NKJ

What type of treasure is your mouth telling this world you're storing: temporary or eternal? We have an *obvious* choice in the *meaningful moments*: **we can assume we know;** or **we can know we love.** Do you *assume* you *know* Jesus, or *know* you *love* Jesus? *Assume* you *know* His *Word*, or *know* you *love* His *Word*? *Assume* you *know* *others*, or *know* you *love* 'em ... *from* the *heart*?

In other words: **you gonna invest what's treasured in your chest; or just take another puff?**

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.